



JOIN THE HEALTH CARE FIGHT



Why I Support Health Insurance Reform

I was born in England. Now I am a U.S. citizen and a proud associate member of the USW. The discussion in England at the time of the establishment of national health care was about the moral need for medical care rather than about its finances. I had several positive experiences in England: In my teens, I contracted tubercular infection and was cured after several operations and access to a then cutting-edge drug. I had three babies, including one born with a club foot. We got quality, quick care and my baby was cured. I had no worries about costs or waiting for treatment. The talk about rationing health care is silly. I just want to tell people that what critics call "socialized medicine" is good for the people. I was proud to pay taxes to support the moral system which was set up so many years ago in England.

Margaret Carlson
USW Associate Member
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Where Our Union Stands on Reform:

"You can't even think about negotiating for a wage increase because the whole negotiation is about trying to keep the benefits you already have. That's not just the fault of the employer. It's the fault of a broken health care system that's sucking up all the money." – President Obama

Our union believes health care for all is the civil rights issue of our time. And the moment for action is now. But not all reform plans are the same, and not all are good for working families.

We support a plan with these essential components:

- ✓ Affordable options and reform of insurance practices that will result in health care for all Americans, and increased bargaining power for our members who are forced to sacrifice wages, health and safety improvements, pensions and other important issues because of the rising cost of health benefits.
- ✓ A public option that will lower costs by competing with the private sector and offer coverage for Americans who cannot afford alternatives.
- ✓ No taxation for employer-provided insurance and rules to ensure big employers retain coverage.
- ✓ Shared responsibility by requiring all employers to provide coverage, also known as "pay to play."
- ✓ Significant cost containment to help families, retirees, businesses and our governments.
- ✓ A federally funded catastrophic reinsurance program to help employers and VEBAs that provide benefits for pre-Medicare retirees ages 55-64.

For more information, visit www.usw.org/healthcare